

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a reflective mode FLC application, a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave plate compensating FLC is used in series with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave imaging FLC to compensate for the effects of DC balancing. Alternatively, the compensating wave plate could be any odd  $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave multiple, such as  $3\lambda/4$ ,  
5  $5\lambda/4$ , etc. The FLCs are driven in synchronization between on and off states with the total effective retardation for each FLC being either none or one-half wavelength in a double pass.